

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for improving the price of an item, said method being implemented in an electronic trading system, comprising:

providing a trading stack;

receiving a dynamic price improvement order to trade said item at an improved price;

assigning one of a plurality of price improvement levels to said order, said assigned price improvement level defines said improved price of said order such that said order is placed in a predetermined position within said trading stack; and

maintaining said position of said order in said stack until said order is matched or cancelled.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said maintaining comprises adjusting the price improvement level of said order to maintain said predetermined position.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said adjusting comprises increasing the price improvement level.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein said adjusting comprises decreasing the price improvement level.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined position is the front of said trading stack.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising assigning a timestamp to said order.

7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising maintaining said position based on said timestamp.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein in the event two or more said dynamic price improvement orders are received, the orders with older timestamps are matched prior to orders with newer timestamps.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein each one of said price improvement levels represents a fraction of a predetermined pricing increment for which the price of said item is improved upon.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein said maintaining comprises: adjusting the price improvement level such that it is one level higher than the next best order in the stack, wherein the price improvement level can be adjusted up to a maximum price improvement level.

11. The method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined position is the position of said order relative to other orders in said stack.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein said assigning comprises:

determining the price improvement level of a best order in said stack; and

assigning a price improvement level to said dynamic price improvement order that exceeds the price improvement level of said best order by one price improvement level when the price improvement level of

said best order is not a maximum price improvement level.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising assigning said maximum price improvement level to said dynamic price improvement order when the price improvement level of said best order is at said maximum price improvement level.

14. The method according to claim 1, wherein said dynamic price improvement order is the default price improvement order type for a predetermined number of traders.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein said dynamic price improvement order is one of several price improvement order types selected by a trader using said electronic trading system.

16. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:

decreasing the price improvement level of at least one price improved order submitted subsequent to a dynamic order such that the price improvement level of the at least one price improved order does not exceed the price improvement level of the dynamic order.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the price improvement level of the at least one price improved order is decreased to a price improvement level one level below a maximum price improvement level when the at least one price improved order is submitted having the maximum price improvement level as its price improvement level.

18. A electronic trading system for improving the price of an item, said system comprising a server that is configured to:

provide a trading stack;  
receive a dynamic price improvement order to trade said item at an improved price;  
assign one of a plurality of price improvement levels to said order, said assigned price improvement level defines said improved price of said order such that said order is placed in a predetermined position within said trading stack; and  
maintain said position of said order in said stack until said order is matched or cancelled.

19. The system according to claim 18, wherein said server is operative to adjust the price improvement level of said order to maintain said predetermined position.

20. The system according to claim 18, wherein said server is operative to increase the price improvement level.

21. The system according to claim 18, wherein said server is operative to decrease the price improvement level.

22. The system according to claim 18, wherein said predetermined position is the front of said trading stack.

23. The system according to claim 18, wherein said server is operative to assign a timestamp to said order.

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein said server is operative to maintain said position based on said timestamp.

25. The system according to claim 18, wherein each one of said price improvement levels represents a fraction of a predetermined pricing increment for which the price of said item is improved upon.

26. The system according to claim 18, wherein said server is operative to adjust the price improvement level such that it is one level higher than the next best order in the stack, wherein the price improvement level can be adjusted up to a maximum price improvement level.

27. The system according to claim 18, wherein said predetermined position is the position of said order relative to other orders in said stack.

28. The system according to claim 18, wherein said server is operative to:

determine the price improvement level of a best order in said stack; and

assign a price improvement level to said dynamic price improvement order that exceeds the price improvement level of said best order by one price improvement level when the price improvement level of said best order is not a maximum price improvement level.

29. The system according to claim 28, wherein said server is operative to assign said maximum

price improvement level to said dynamic price improvement order when the price improvement level of said best order is at said maximum price improvement level.

30. The system according to claim 18, wherein said dynamic price improvement order is the default price improvement order type for a predetermined number of traders.

31. The system according to claim 18, wherein said server is operative to decrease the price improvement level of at least one price improved order submitted subsequent to a dynamic order such that the price improvement level of the at least one price improved order does not exceed the price improvement level of the dynamic order.

32. The system according to claim 31, wherein the price improvement level of the at least one price improved order is decreased to a price improvement level one level below a maximum price improvement level when the at least one price improved order is submitted having the maximum price improvement level as its price improvement level.

33. The system according to claim 18, wherein said dynamic price improvement order is one of several price improvement order types selected by a trader using a workstation that is connected to said electronic trading system.

34. An apparatus for implementing an electronic trading system, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of workstations, each of said workstations comprising:

a workstation storage device;

a workstation processor connected to said workstation storage device, said workstation storage device storing a workstation program for controlling said workstation processor; and

said workstation processor operative with said workstation program to receive a dynamic price improvement order to trade on an item at an improved price, and to display said order; and

a server operative to communicate with said plurality of workstations and receive said dynamic price improved order, the server comprising:

a server storage device;

a server processor connected to said server storage device, said server storage device storing a server program for controlling said server processor; and

said server processor operative with said server program to:

provide a trading stack;

assign one of a plurality of price improvement levels to said order, said assigned price improvement level defines said improved price of said order such that said order is placed in a predetermined position within said trading stack; and

maintain said position of said order in said stack until said order is matched or cancelled.

35. The system according to claim 34, wherein said server is operative to adjust the price

improvement level of said order to maintain said predetermined position.

36. The system according to claim 34, wherein said server is operative to increase the price improvement level.

37. The system according to claim 34, wherein said server is operative to decrease the price improvement level.

38. The system according to claim 34, wherein said server is operative to assign a timestamp to said order, and operative to maintain said position based on said timestamp.